

BERRIGAN GARDEN
(Fay Park)
2366 Leavenworth Street
San Francisco
San Francisco County
California

HALS CA-15
CA-15

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPES SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

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HALS NO. CA-15

- Location: 2366 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, San Francisco County, California
Latitude: 37.8031 Longitude: -122.41825
- Significance: The Berrigan Garden represents the work of a master: Thomas D. Church, landscape architect. Church used this garden as an example in the *San Francisco Chronicle* newspaper, in *House Beautiful* magazine, in his book *Your Private World*, and in the second and third editions of his book *Gardens Are for People*.
- Description: The Berrigan Garden is a former private residential garden, now public garden, in the Russian Hill neighborhood of San Francisco. The garden is approximately 0.2 acres, on a steep slope to the rear and side of the house. It is a formal garden, known for its twin gazebos.
- History: In 1957, Mary Fay Berrigan (1911-1988) and her husband, Brigadier General Paul Dunn Berrigan (1905-1998), commissioned Thomas Church (1902-1978) to design a garden for their residence, on property that had been in the Fay family since 1869. Church wrote that the existing garden, which had a specimen pepper tree and cobblestone-edged paths, had not been usable due to its steep slope. Church reorganized the garden into two terraces, using a symmetrical scheme with the existing pepper tree as a focal point on the axis of symmetry. For the upper terrace, Church designed twin latticed gazebos in twin four-square parterres of roses. On the lower terrace, Church placed a parquet deck in a basket-weave pattern and twin street lights from Copenhagen. The garden was completed in 1958. In 1960 or 1961, General Berrigan added an overlook at the top of the garden, using the same style of balustrade as the terraces and deck.
- In 1998, the Berrigans bequeathed their house and garden to the City of San Francisco for use as a public park, to be named Fay Park. The rehabilitation plan for the garden conformed to the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" with a 1959 to 1961 period of significance. Fay Park opened to the public in 2006.
- Sources: Church, Thomas Dolliver. Gardens Are for People: How to Plan for Outdoor Living. 1st ed. New York: Reinhold Pub., 1955.
- Meehan, June. "The Return of the Gazebo." House Beautiful Jun 1960: 99+.
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Treib, Marc, ed. Thomas Church, Landscape Architect: Designing a Modern California Landscape. San Francisco: William Stout Publishers, 2003. 177.

Cutler, Phoebe. "Skirmish on Russian Hill: Church Garden Becomes a Public Park." Eden: Journal of the California Garden & Landscape History Society 8.3 (2005): 1-3.

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